



Britt Cobb
Commissioner

N. David Smith
Deputy Commissioner

North Carolina
Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Standards Divisions

Jim Cummings
Assistant Commissioner

E. Winston Sutton
Director

POLICY CONCERNING REQUIREMENT IN THE LP-GAS CODE TO REQUALIFY LARGE STATIONARY PROPANE CYLINDERS

The LP-Gas Code, NFPA 58, 2001 Edition, requires all DOT cylinders with an expired requalification date shall not be filled until it is requalified according to DOT regulations, which basically means Compressed Gas Association document CGA C-6. Shortly after the 2001 edition of NFPA 58 came out, a TIA (TIA 01-1 (NFPA 58)) was approved by the NFPA to delay this requirement for large stationary cylinders until July 1, 2004. As of this writing, beginning of March 2004, the requirement goes into effect in four months. The complete TIA can be viewed at www.nfpa.org/PDF/TIA58-01-1.PDF?src=nfpa. The 2004 edition of NFPA 58, due out this spring, also has the requirement to not fill an out-of-date cylinder. The 2004 edition also contains new information on the method to perform the visual inspection. Of particular note is removal of the requirement to verify cylinder tare weight.

When the TIA was approved, the LP-Gas Section of the Standards Division started sending out reminders, mostly in the NCPGA magazine, for propane companies to be making plans to get all of their older large stationary cylinders requalified. The reminders stated that the intent of the TIA was to give companies enough lead time to perform those requalifications by July 1, 2004. They also stated that the deadline was firm and that extensions would not be granted. The reminders from the LP-Gas Section have been printed in the NCPGA magazine at least once and sometimes twice a year since 2001. While we realize this magazine does not go to all propane companies in the state, it is the best vehicle available to inform the bulk of the companies.

There have been some inquiries about extending the deadline for performing the requalifications. As an effort to recognize the efforts made by some companies to complete the requalifications on time and to keep the industry, and, consequently, their customers, from experiencing hardships, the following policy will be followed:

Inspections after July 1, 2004, that identify large stationary cylinders as out-of-date will state the location of the cylinder and the supplying propane company and will state that the cylinder must be requalified or taken out of service by December 31, 2004. This same deadline will be stated on inspections performed until November 1, 2004. After that date, the deadline for requalifying the cylinder or taking it out of service will be two months after the inspection. It is not the intent of the Standards Division to provide extensions on those deadlines.

It will be the Standards Division intent to begin doing follow-up inspections on out-of-date cylinders in January 2005. If the cylinders are still out-of-date, a reinspection report giving notice of violation will be issued. Other actions to attempt to force the correction of the violations will be considered, including issuance of a civil penalty.

E-mail: Standards@ncmail.net

1050 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1050 • (919) 733-3313 • Fax (919) 715-0524

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